

2005 ANNUAL REPORT

BUSINESS ROUNDTABLE



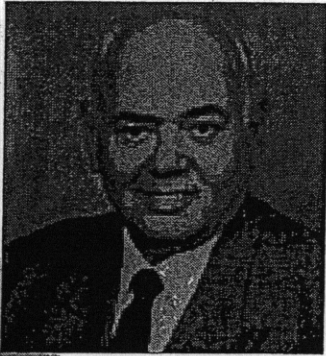
WHERE PEOPLE & TECHNOLOGY PROSPER

**Oakland County
Michigan**

Business Roundtable

OAKLAND COUNTY BUSINESS ROUNDTABLE

MISSION



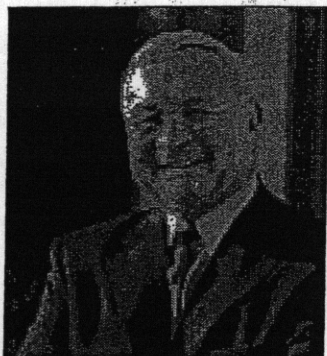
Dennis Toffolo
Oakland Conty
Deputy Conty Executive

The Oakland County Business Roundtable will provide advice to the County Executive on business, economic and land development matters in order to insure the preservation of the county's quality of life and economic vitality for the benefit of its citizens, communities and businesses.

The Roundtable will work to insure the implementation of its original recommendations, as well as identifying new issues and subsequent recommendations in order to successfully plan for the county's future.

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L. Brooks Patterson
Oakland County Executive

L. BROOKS PATTERSON

Oakland County Executive

The Oakland County Business Roundtable is in the home stretch of one of its most exciting and productive years since those nascent early days of 1993 when the group first came together.

Over the past twelve months the dedicated members of the Business Roundtable have worked diligently to develop a comprehensive set of recommendations that address Oakland County's future needs in the areas of transportation, workforce, economic development and quality of life.

These are challenging times in Michigan's history. We are confronted by significant problems in our manufacturing sector which has experienced massive job losses, layoffs, plant closings and even bankruptcies. Despite these serious difficulties, there are unique opportunities to gird ourselves against future dislocations in the economy through proper planning, something which the Business Roundtable has been successful in doing right from the very start.

This august group of talented men and women from government, business and education has used its collective experience and expertise to develop programs that have enabled Oakland County to navigate effectively through the uncharted waters in these uncertain times.

I applaud each of you for your significant contributions to making Oakland County one of America's premiere locations in which to live, work, play and raise a family. To the chairmen of this outstanding blue ribbon panel, Robert Stempel and Gary Russi, I extend my sincere heartfelt appreciation to both of you for your extraordinary leadership.

2006 is almost upon us. I challenge all of you to renew your efforts and commitment to moving Oakland County forward.

I am deeply grateful for all you have done in the past and will do in the future on behalf of this great county of ours.

BUSINESS ROUNDTABLE

CO-CHAIR



*Dr. Gary Russi
Oakland University*

This annual report of the Oakland County Business Roundtable provides a snapshot of our accomplishments and activities of the past year. Despite a challenging economy, Oakland County continues to provide the highest possible quality of life and economic conditions for residents and businesses.

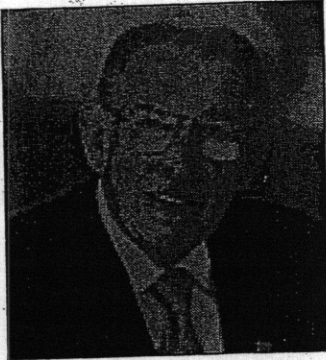
For a dozen years, the Oakland County Business Roundtable has served as an advisory group, not only creating strategies to move the county forward, but implementing those strategies. This accomplishment is a testament to the more than 100 business, government and education leaders who provide support and counsel. The group's success is recognized by Governor Jennifer Granholm, who has replicated elements of the roundtable on a statewide basis, using it as a model in forming the Governor's Council of Economic Advisors.

Oakland University, a doctoral, research-intensive institution, continues to play a critical role in supporting existing and growing new technology-based businesses in Oakland County. The university provides applied research, technology transfer and commercialization, continuing education and professional development and access to a broad array of university resources for consultation, education and service programs. As part of the Automation Alley consortium and the SmartZone, we are dedicated to nurturing the economic vitality of the region.

Oakland University is proud to be a part of this partnership between business, government and education. By working together, we are ensuring Oakland County will continue to thrive in the future.

BUSINESS ROUNDTABLE

CO-CHAIR



*Mr. Robert Stempel
Energy Conversion
Devices, Inc.*

The Oakland County Business Roundtable is a prime example of how cooperation between government, education and the private sector can help move this country forward. The Business Roundtable has identified many issues facing the County, but more importantly, it has developed action strategies and plans for consideration by the County. Over the years, many of the suggestions have become reality for the benefit of the County and its citizens. The insight and guidance provided by these advisors is especially valuable as we face increasing economic challenges.

The input from the four committees continues to make a significant difference in the way Oakland County operates and plans for the future. That is why I am proud to serve, along with Gary Russi, as co-chair of the Oakland County Business Roundtable.

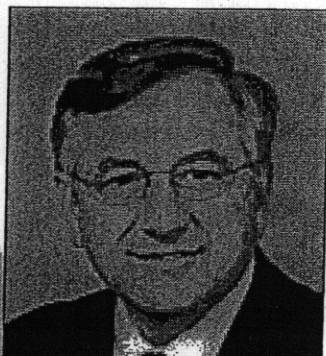
Since the Roundtable was formed in 1993, hundreds of people have volunteered their time and talent. It's an honor to continue to work with these outstanding individuals who serve on this advisory panel. The spirit of cooperation and innovation among our members speaks highly of the caliber of those who serve. Each of the committee chairs has provided strong leadership and it has been my pleasure to work with them and their members. I wish to personally thank all who have served on the Roundtable in 2005 and look forward to their continued contributions in the future.



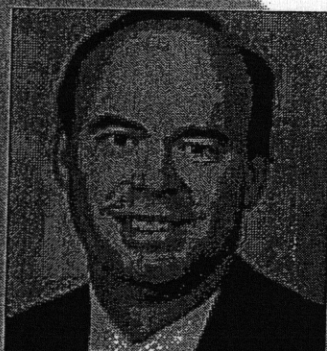
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Business Roundtable

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE



*Fred Seely
Chair
Economic Development
Committee*



*Donald Kegley, Jr.
Vice Chair
Economic Development
Committee*

It has been a busy and productive year for the Economic Development Committee. This year the committee has been very active in implementing a recommendation from 2004 and in developing a proposal to create tools to help encourage communities to be more business friendly.

Growth Capital Initiative

Issue:

Oakland County is the hot spot for economic activity in the state. It is also home to the majority of investment capital and research and development activity in Michigan. Yet, there are only 2 venture funds in the area compared to 3 that are based in Kalamazoo and 5 that are based in Ann Arbor. It is a fact that most of the dollars available in Michigan for investment in emerging sector businesses are being invested out of state. This fact is pressuring Michigan based entrepreneurs to relocate to the centers of investment activity on the East and West coasts.

Recommendation/Implementation

The Economic Development Committee created the Growth Capital Taskforce to actively promote and encourage entrepreneurial development in the region. The taskforce has broken this task into three elements:

- Develop Deals
 - Highlight innovative ideas and technologies
 - Identify emerging companies and their needs
 - Educate entrepreneurs to be successful
 - Promote entrepreneurial efforts to other entrepreneurs
 - Attract investors to the range of successful deals
 - Highlight successful entrepreneurs
 - Exposure for emerging entrepreneurs
- Foster Capital Availability
 - Develop local sources of capital
 - Attract capital to opportunities in the region
 - Encourage local investors to commit dollars locally
 - Increase funding of regional investment opportunities
 - Increase the number of funds with a presence in the region
- Connect Management Talent
 - Develop entrepreneurial skills of existing talent
 - Connect strong management with companies and ideas
 - Encourage the formation of businesses from existing R&D

Results

The Entrepreneurs Forum was created by the Taskforce in association with the Automation Alley Technology Center to address the first element of the strategy, Develop Deals.

Through October three forums have been held. Each forum had over 100 attendees including entrepreneurs, venture capitalist, angel investors, consultants and other business leaders. Successful entrepreneurs such as Ray Gunn, former CEO of Clarity Technologies, shared their story and success. Two to three companies at each forum provided a 10-minute pitch about their business. The entrepreneurs receive extensive pre-forum coaching as well as the valuable feedback they receive at the forums. Through the generous contributions of the Oakland County Business Finance Corporation and the Oakland County Economic Development Corporation, the Taskforce plans on holding forums every other month.

The Taskforce is currently developing the strategy for the second goal, Fostering Capital Availability. They anticipate implementing that strategy in early 2006.

Business Climate Initiative

Issue:

Almost every community has residents who will speak against any development or redevelopment proposal. Typically, the basis of their arguments is emotional rather than factual. None-the-less, these emotional appeals can be quite effective if there is no one prepared to explain the positive effects of business and development to a community and support specific development or redevelopment projects.

Over time, these very vocal residents can have a great influence on their community officials, leading to very negative attitudes toward business and any form of change. The long term results can include:

- Growth controls
- Time consuming permit and approval processes
- Obsolete building codes
- Complex zoning ordinances
- Regulatory barriers
- Inconsistency in application of zoning regulations

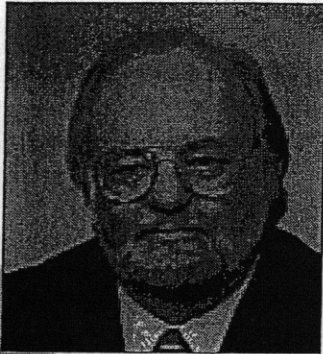
Recommendation/Implementation

The Oakland County Business Roundtable Economic Development Committee created the Business Climate Taskforce to address this issue. The Taskforce is working on creating a "tool box." The general purpose of these "tools" is to promote the need to maintain a positive business climate and a positive attitude toward business within a community. These "tools" will be used by economic developers, city and township staff, chambers of commerce and others.

The "tools" will be used to assist in the creation of presentations to local elected and appointed officials, business and civic groups and community associations.



QUALITY OF LIFE COMMITTEE



*Kenneth Peterson
Chair
Quality of Life Committee*



*Jennifer Radcliff
Vice Chair
Quality of Life Committee*

Goal Statement

The Oakland County Business Roundtable's Quality of Life committee makes recommendations directly to the County Executive. These recommendations are intended to focus attention on areas that can be improved and are under the control or strongly influenced by Oakland County government. They are published annually and distributed to county personnel and community leaders for consideration and implementation when possible. The recommendations are based on an analysis of current conditions and an exploration of possible solutions with input from community leaders who are directly involved in Oakland County.

In an attempt to determine the overall quality of life of county residents, the committee is preparing an annual quality of life indicator report. Monitoring social, economic and environmental indicators and publishing an annual report provides local government and the private sector with access to a substantial data base which can aid in the development of programs and policies to improve the life of all county residents.

Goal:

The committee's goal is to develop an affordable method of organizing and disseminating the data and initiatives in an annual Quality of Life report to increase citizen awareness of the successes and challenges in the community and obtain funding to publish the indicator report.

Accomplishments:

The Quality of Life subcommittees, with the assistance from Oakland County Department of Economic Development & Community Affairs staff, is publishing a series of

subcommittee marketing and informational profiles that identify the objectives, goals and accomplishments of each subcommittee. The profiles can be used to publicize the groups and their work and to recruit new members. They can also be found at www.oakgov.com/brt.

The Quality of Life Committee, and its housing subcommittee, is awaiting the final report from the Comprehensive Housing Needs Assessment. The report is being conducted by Wayne State University's College of Urban, Labor and Metropolitan Affairs and addresses the following: economic conditions; population characteristics; housing stock characteristics; housing availability; special needs housing; housing delivery systems and resources; land use inventory and analysis; housing constraints and existing and projected housing needs.

In addition, the study will provide recommendations to meet Oakland County's current and future housing needs and develop housing indicators that can be reviewed on a yearly basis. This information will help business and government in Oakland County identify challenges and housing needs that will sustain the economic growth of the county. The results are expected in early 2007.

Recommendations for 2006:

- Business and education must work collaboratively to improve educational offerings directed at emerging markets such as those identified in the county's Emerging Sectors business development strategy using technology, human capital and synergy of resources to create new opportunities for learning

- Focus community and educational resources on early childhood to increase the potential for a child's success by endorsing current and future educational initiatives.
- Promote a public service campaign across the community to inspire and connect all students and potential adult learners to strategies for success.
- Increase educational options across all sectors to ensure all students graduate with employable skills, competent to participate in the global economy.
- The community should be tapped as a facilitating resource to deploy / employ automatic external defibrillators (AED) across the county. Grants could be written or private enterprise could underwrite the effort to place an AED in each response vehicle that needs it. In addition, a training effort should be mounted to teach the benefits of having an AED in the workplace and having personnel at the work site trained and capable of operating the device in case of an emergency. The AED is a readily available, simple, and easy-to-use tool. Its timely use in an emergency saves lives.
- Public training forums, directed by the county, hosted by the business community, and presented by professionals and specialists in the public safety field, would be the best way to draw the community into its own safety effort. These forums would be tailored to educate residents, business owners, management, and employees on such things as
 - Personal safety
 - Security for their properties (homes, cars, businesses)
 - Hazardous materials requirements for businesses
 - Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR)
 - Automatic External Defibrillator
 Presenting these forums over a period of two to three years would also allow us to track the benefits of this training by looking at the trends in our measurable data in

such areas as Crimes Against Persons / Property. Developing some of these sessions into train-the-trainer courses allows for parts of the program to be self-perpetuating as businesses could then maintain their own trained personnel and an acceptable level of readiness.

- In the efforts to protect Oakland County residents against natural disasters it is the recommendation of this committee that countywide coverage of all tornado sirens should be an absolute consideration for safety and economical purposes.
- As CLEMIS is an important technology provider and repository of crime data, it is suggested by this committee that efforts be put forth to pursue agencies within the county not currently a member of CLEMIS.
- Design and implement an improved way of tracking sexual offenders in our communities via tether and using a GPS unit and stiffer penalties for not registering with local police departments.

When considering "public safety" it is difficult to prioritize the issues of greatest concern to the residential and business communities. Provisions taken to enhance the safety, security and health of those who live and work here are, almost by definition, on par one with another. Freedom from victimization at the hands of a violent criminal, certain timely response by a fully qualified medical service provider in the event of a life-threatening medical emergency or the early warning of a cataclysmic natural disaster share top-of-the-list status to our residents and businesses.

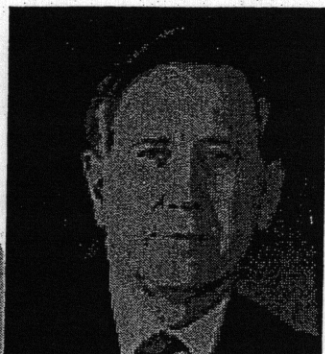
- Form an Oakland County lakes association to provide data and information to existing lake associations and property owners.

The proposed association would facilitate educational programs, lake quality improvement programs and coordinate the work of county, state and federal agencies.

- Help facilitate educational programs using information on surface water and ground water released by the U.S. Geological Survey.
- The Arts, Culture and Recreation subcommittee recommends that agreements be reached which will ensure that every public library in the county becomes a wireless hot spot, expanding accessibility and bringing service to a level commensurate with Oakland County's high-tech image.



TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE



*Alan Kiriluk
Chair
Transportation Committee*



*James Page
Vice Chair
Transportation Committee*

The charge of the Oakland County Business Roundtable Transportation Committee is to look at transportation issues and identify actions Oakland County can undertake to resolve or mitigate them. For the last few years, the Committee has focused on developing a long-range, comprehensive strategy to increase funding to address road congestion needs in Oakland County. It is estimated that with inflation, Oakland's county, city, and village roads will require \$1.7 billion over the next ten years to address congestion. Unfortunately, at the current rate of funding, less than \$200 million will be available over this same period. This leaves an annual shortfall of at least \$155 million. Even with the recent reauthorization of the transportation funding bill, it is evident that federal funding will not supply Oakland County with the money needed to address our needs. If additional funding is not found, congestion will worsen, adversely impacting traffic safety, economic development, growth, and quality of life in Oakland County. According to the 2004-2005 Oakland County Economic Outlook Final Report, "Transportation networks and infrastructure need to continue to be upgraded to move goods and people more quickly and effectively to where they are needed. Efficient transportation networks and modern infrastructure are becoming increasingly important in a faster-paced economic environment."

To address this immediate need, the following Recommendations are respectfully submitted to County Executive L. Brooks Patterson:

1. Support the development of a locally generated, dedicated revenue enhancement program, initially suggested for 10 years. The premise of this Congestion Fund is that all money generated would stay in Oakland County to address county, city, and village roads.
2. Help identify and recruit a "Council of Champions" of business executives to lead the campaign to develop the Congestion Fund.
3. Work with Wayne and Macomb Counties and the City of Detroit to elevate transportation congestion as a regional issue and gain their participation in the Businesses for Better Roads (BBR) effort.
4. Encourage the Detroit Regional Chamber of Commerce to place the BBR effort on the 2006 agenda for the Mackinac Conference.
5. Provide county staff support to help with public relations and media exposure of the BBR effort.
6. Endorse the 2006 SMART millage renewal proposal.

Recognizing transit's role in helping to reduce traffic congestion, the Committee took the following actions and recommended that these proposals be endorsed at the county level as well:

1. Resolved to include transit amenities such as bus pullouts, shelters, adequate turning radius, and other transit considerations in Businesses for Better Roads (BBR) funded road improvements.
2. Supported the concept of the Troy-Birmingham Multi-modal Transit Center.

Accomplishments:

In 2005, the Transportation Committee continued concentrating its efforts to gain support within the business community for a congestion relief program. The Committee, through its Businesses for Better Roads (BBR) efforts, accomplished the following:

- ✓ Refined the funding proposal and replaced the single, five-point funding proposal with three potential options, each including a different mix of revenue generating tools. New to the fundraising lineup is a property transfer tax (0.29% in one option and 0.15% in another). The Committee continues to evaluate these options. The current estimate of the annual cost of one of the BBR options (option 1) is \$138.24 per each county resident. This compares to the \$950 per motorist estimate that the Texas Transportation Institute's 2005 Urban Mobility Authority study said was the cost of congestion to each person in metro Detroit in 2003.
- ✓ Met with the editorial boards of Crain's Detroit Business, The Oakland Press, Detroit News, and the Royal Oak Tribune. Meetings were also held with an Oakland Business Review reporter and an Observer & Eccentric reporter.

- ✓ Worked with Macomb County business and road leaders to help establish a Macomb County "Businesses for Better Roads" group.

- ✓ Continued to meet with the Detroit Chamber of Commerce to identify areas for collaboration as well as with the Michigan Chamber of Commerce.

- ✓ Met with transportation officials and business leaders in Monroe County and officials with the Wayne County Department of Public Services.

- ✓ Made over 40 presentations since May 2003 to chambers of commerce, downtown development authorities, and other civic groups.

- ✓ Received 8 resolutions or letters of support from various organizations.

- ✓ Started making presentations to local officials. Presentations were made to the county's city managers' association, the South Oakland Mayors and Managers Association, and the General Government Committee of the Oakland County Board of Commissioners. A presentation is pending to the Oakland County Association of Township Supervisors.

- ✓ Started making presentations to local citizen and resident groups. A presentation was made to the Council of Troy Homeowners Association (COTHA), an umbrella organization representing homeowner and condominium associations throughout the City of Troy.

- ✓ Solicited and received four proposals to conduct a scientific survey to establish an initial benchmark of where voters stand on the transportation/congestion issue, both in Oakland County and across the state as a whole. A firm has been selected and the survey will be conducted once funds are available.

- ✓ Formed an alliance with the Traffic Improvement Association and began fundraising. Projected funds to be used for survey of voters.

Key Next Steps for the Businesses for Better Roads:

- ✓ Work with the County Executive to recruit a Council of Champions to lead the BBR effort.

- ✓ Conduct a voter opinion survey.

- ✓ Hire an Executive Director to coordinate activities of the Businesses for Better Roads Effort.

- ✓ Continue to make presentations to local community officials, business organizations, and resident groups.

- ✓ Encourage other business groups to support the 2006 SMART millage.

- ✓ Continue to develop partnerships with other counties to gain regional support for road congestion funding and solutions.

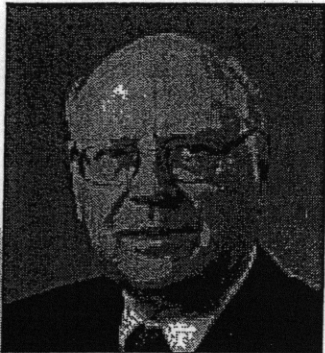
- ✓ Continue exploring demand-based transit needs.

- ✓ Continue involvement in the Context Sensitive Solutions Program to improve curb appeal and increase positive impact on economic development.

- ✓ Collaborate with the Michigan Transportation Team to keep abreast of transportation issues in the State of Michigan.



WORKFORCE & EDUCATION COMMITTEE



*Terence Adderley
Chair
Workforce and
Education Committee*



*David Hay
Vice Chair
Workforce and
Education Committee*

The Committee's Charge: The Oakland County Business Roundtable's Workforce and Education Committee will provide the County Executive advice on workforce development and education matters.

Current Recommendations: During the period of 2001 through 2004, the Workforce and Education Committee made five recommendations. These recommendations and their status follow:

1. Market Oakland County's Workforce Development and Education Programs

Recommendation #1:

Elevate awareness of Oakland County's solutions to workforce and education issues, by:

- a.) establishing an information clearinghouse;
- b.) initiating pilot marketing strategies that benchmark the public's awareness levels; and
- c.) targeting students, parents, educators, workers, and employers.

2005 Priorities for Recommendation #1:
The Committee urged that its previous priorities and the following new priorities for Recommendation #1 be addressed during 2005:

- Increase public awareness of various career paths and career planning resources;
- Promote Oakland County Michigan Works! and
- Increase public awareness of career-focused higher education and training providers.

Implementation Strategy for Recommendation #1:

This recommendation directly relates to a goal in the Strategic Plan that the Oakland County Workforce Development Board and its Education Advisory Group (EAG) developed. Thus, the Board, the EAG, and the Workforce and Education Committee are jointly overseeing the implementation strategies that the Strategic Plan identifies for this goal/recommendation.

2005 Accomplishments for Recommendation #1:

To market Oakland County's workforce development and education programs, the Oakland County Workforce Development Board and the Oakland EAG implemented several initiatives during 2005. Along with various partners, the County and/or the Board and/or the EAG, for example,

- Published and distributed an apprenticeship booklet that answers key questions, and that gives pertinent information about apprenticeships for thirty different occupations, including those in the construction, manufacturing, and health care sectors;
- Marketed Oakland County Michigan Works! to the 200 companies that Automation Alley's Business Development Executive recruited for membership;
- Advertised Oakland County Michigan Works! at various events, including Automation Alley's "Superhighway to Success: Career Pathways for the 21st Century"; the Oakland County Economic Outlook Luncheon; and the Oakland County Employment Diversity Council's Job Expo; and
- Launched, under the auspices of Oakland Schools, a website, www.oakland.k12.mi.us/cfe, where viewers can learn more about career-focused education.

2006 Priorities for Recommendation #1:

As Recommendation #1 is implemented further during 2006, the Committee urges that its previous priorities continue to be addressed.

2. Develop Partnerships with Business

Recommendation #2:

Develop more partnerships between business and workforce development/education providers, as students, job seekers, and current workers are trained and/or retrained for Oakland County's jobs. These partnerships should

- a.) include small and large businesses;
- b.) use new technologies; and
- c.) involve business in curricula design and innovative programs (e.g., student internships).

2005 Priorities for Recommendation #2:

The Committee urged that its previous priorities and the following new priorities for Recommendation #2 be addressed during 2005:

- Produce more business mentors for youth; and
- Facilitate collaboration among businesses to provide workforce training and education opportunities.

Implementation Strategy for Recommendation #2:

This recommendation directly relates to another goal in the Oakland County Workforce Development Board and the Oakland Education Advisory Group's (EAG's) Strategic Plan. Thus, the Board, the EAG, and the Workforce and Education Committee are jointly overseeing the implementation strategies that the Strategic Plan identifies for this goal/recommendation.

2005 Accomplishments for Recommendation #2:

The Oakland County Workforce Development Board and the EAG surveyed their key partners to identify successful partnerships with business. Some of the partnerships that were identified follow:

- The General Motors Corporation and Oakland Schools partnered during the 2004-05 school year to continue the General Motors Academy, which provided 35 high school students a work-based learning experience at the GM Proving Ground.
- Oakland Schools, the DaimlerChrysler Corporation, and Oakland Community College partnered during the 2004-05 school year to continue the Walter P. Chrysler Manufacturing Technology Academy, which provided 82 high school and college students instruction in electronics, robotics, design, team-work, and problem-solving techniques.

- Oakland Schools, General Motors, and five K-12 school districts partnered during the 2004-05 school year to continue the General Motors Technical Academy, which provided 52 high school students a computer-aided drafting, design and pre-engineering program.
- Automation Alley, Oakland Schools, and Oakland Community College partnered to launch the "Global Trade Mission," through which student teams from more than 15 high schools created international business plans.
- The Oak Park Business Education Alliance launched a mentoring program, in collaboration with the Oak Park School District and several companies, including Blue Cross Blue Shield, Kelly Services, and Plante and Moran.

2006 Priorities for Recommendation #2:

As Recommendation #2 is implemented further during 2006, the Committee urges that its previous priorities continue to be addressed. The Committee further urges that business-education partnerships produce more apprenticeships, and that Automation Alley facilitate partnerships among business, education, and human service agencies.

3. Retain, Train, Retrain, and Recruit Workers for Oakland County's High Demand Jobs

Recommendation #3:

To ensure that Oakland County has an available and qualified labor force for the County's current and future high-demand jobs, workers should be retained, trained, retrained, and recruited, as may be needed.

2005 Priorities for Recommendation #3:

The Committee urged that its previous priorities and the following new priorities for Recommendation #3 be addressed during 2005:

- Continue to assess the educational and training needs of workers who visit the Michigan Works! Service Centers;
- Obtain federal and state training and economic development funds;
- Retrain dislocated employees for other occupations; and
- Provide e-learning opportunities.

Implementation Strategy for Recommendation #3:

This recommendation directly relates to the missions of the Oakland County Workforce Development Board and its Education Advisory Group (EAG). Thus, the Board, the EAG, and the Committee are collaborating with each other, and with the County's educators, trainers, and Michigan Works! Service Centers, to develop implementation strategies.

2005 Accomplishments for Recommendation #3:

During 2005, the Oakland County Workforce Development Board and its partners implemented the following initiatives:

- The Oakland County Michigan Works! Service Centers and their education partners (e.g., Oakland Community College) assessed and trained or retrained approximately 1,078 adults, dislocated workers, and incumbent workers in numerous occupations, including information technology, health care, engineering, accounting, robotics, and culinary arts.
- 8th grade students in all 28 of Oakland County's school districts initiated an employability development plan.
- Oakland Community College received from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) numerous grants to retrain new or current workers at various companies, including General Motors, Cobasys, and the Lear Corporation.
- During the 2004-05 school year, Oakland Schools' four technical campuses enrolled 4,155 students, including 774 in Transportation Technology, 607 in Engineering/Manufacturing Technology, 515 in Health/Medical Technology, and 518 in Business, Management, Marketing, and Technology.



WORKFORCE & EDUCATION COMMITTEE

2006 Priorities for Recommendation #3:

As Recommendation #3 is implemented further during 2006, the Committee urges that its previous priorities continue to be addressed. The Committee further urges that educational entities prepare students for the 21st century by promoting essential core skills (e.g., foreign language, mathematics, and science) at an early age, and that various entrepreneurial training initiatives be packaged and promoted, so customers can access these services more easily.

4. Bridge the Skills Gap

Recommendation #4:

Narrow the gaps between the technical and professional skills industry sectors need and the skills workers have, by a.) promoting continuous learning and b.) consulting specific industries and industry associations.

2005 Priorities for Recommendation #4:

The Committee urged that the foregoing priorities be addressed during 2005:

Implementation Strategy for Recommendation #4:

This recommendation directly relates to the mission of the Oakland County Workforce Development Board and its Education Advisory Group (EAG). Thus, the Board, the EAG, and the Committee are jointly overseeing implementation strategies.

2005 Accomplishments for Recommendation #4:

- The Oakland County Michigan Works! Service Centers addressed technical and professional skills gaps by retraining 745 incumbent workers in numerous subjects including Advanced Quality Planning, CATIA, LEAN Manufacturing, Project Management, and Information Technology.

- Automation Alley applied for a Michigan Regional Skills Alliance Grant, which would convene employers, industry associations, labor, and educators to address the information technology industry's workforce development issues (e.g., skills gaps).
- Automation Alley submitted to the U.S. Department of Labor a "High-Growth Job Training Initiative" grant proposal, which would retrain 5,400 new and current workers at General Motors, DaimlerChrysler, Ford/Visteon, Toyota, various Tier 1 suppliers, and emerging sector businesses.

2006 Priorities for Recommendation #4:

As Recommendation #4 is implemented further during 2006, the Committee urges that the foregoing priorities continue to be addressed:

5. Train Oakland County's workforce for jobs in emerging business sectors

Recommendation #5:

Inform workers and students about -- and train them for -- jobs that the County Executive's Emerging Business Sectors Program brings to Oakland County.

Implementation Strategy for Recommendation #5:

This recommendation directly relates to the mission of the Oakland County Workforce Development Board and its Education Advisory Group (EAG). Thus, the Board, the EAG, and the Committee are jointly overseeing implementation strategies.

2005 Accomplishments for Recommendation #5:

- The Oakland County Department of Economic Development and Community Affairs produced and distributed brochures for the top ten emerging industry and technology sectors.

- The Oakland County Michigan Works! Service Centers retrained nearly 200 workers from four emerging business sector companies: Borg Warner, INCAT, Design Intent Engineering, and Unisolar.
- Oakland Schools aligned the curricula of the following summer courses or camps to the following emerging business sectors: a.) Nanotechnology at Michigan State University's "Microsystems Robotic Camp," b.) Biotechnology at Oakland Schools' "Biotech Laboratory and Crime Scene Investigations" class; c.) Homeland Security at Walsh College's "Information Security" class; d.) Communications at Baker College's "Introduction to Operating System Concepts and Essentials of Networking" class; e.) Robotics and Automation at Lawrence Technological University's "Engineering and Technology Camp", and f.) Alternative Energy and Power Generation at Upland Hill's "Renewable Energy Camp."

2006 Priorities for Recommendation #5:

As Recommendation #5 is implemented further during 2006, the Committee urges that the following priorities be addressed:

- Determine the employment needs of emerging business sectors; and
- Ensure that educational institutions are prepared to train their students for emerging business sector jobs.

An Additional Recommendation for 2006:

6. Develop a "One Stop Educational Resource Shop" in Oakland County

Recommendation #6:

Develop a "One Stop Educational Resource Shop" that would include data, databases, web pages, links, partnership offers, mentoring opportunities, and grant sources, and that is linked with the Emerging Business Sector Program and the Michigan Works! Service Center System.

plus
annual mtg
(held in Dec)

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Edited by
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